

Butler Township while spearheading various projects and serving as the administrative officer of the township. Prior to this position, Ed spent over 18 years managing the City of Lower Burrell—Where he made a positive and lasting impact that can still be felt today.

Throughout his tenure, Ed has displayed an admirable work ethic and a sincere desire to make a difference. His stewardship of Butler Township has resulted not only in continued prosperity of its businesses and residents, but also transformed the overall professional environment. Local officials have a direct impact on residents through a number of capacities, which Ed realized and cherished. Regardless of the situation or circumstances, Ed always remained resilient and kept the township on the right path—Focusing on the best interests of the people he felt privileged to represent.

Though he made a career for himself in public service, Ed still managed to give back to his community as a volunteer. He has participated on a number of boards and served as a member of numerous committees, continuously striving to make a difference and better the lives of others. Ed participated in the committees that were formed to rewrite and modernize both the First and Third Class Township Codes, which eventually granted cities legal authority to operate in an efficient manner.

In addition, Ed was the Director of the “U-Comp Board” which was developed to assist municipalities and authorities across the state with unemployment solutions and assistance. Ed served on the Little League Board of Directors for nearly 20 years and volunteered as a mentor for individuals who committed first time offenses.

Ed’s decades of service prove him to be a leader in every sense of the word. I am grateful to represent such a service-minded individual who has been both honorable and effective. Under his management, Butler Township has flourished while residents and business have been enriched.

Ed is the epitome of a devoted public servant and his strong leadership has provided a solid vision for Butler Township. His unique people skills, thoughtfulness and integrity have resulted in many years of professional and invaluable service for which he will be remembered.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Ed Kirkwood for his lifelong dedication to public service and for all of the work he has done to better the community. Furthermore, I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Ed on his well-earned retirement and wishing him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

HONORING COLONEL ROGER
DONLON

HON. JOHN J. FASO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2018

Mr. FASO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Colonel Roger Donlon for his exemplary service to our nation. A native of Saugerties, New York, Mr. Donlon bravely served our country in the U.S. Army for thirty years. Though his humility, fierce loyalty, and steadfast patriotism, Mr. Donlon has redefined

bravery and showed us that our freedoms have not come without many sacrifices.

In May 1964, Mr. Donlon was sent to Vietnam as Captain of the U.S. Army 7th Special Forces Team A-726 assigned to defend Camp Nam Dong. In the early hours of July 6, 1964, a Viet Cong battalion unleashed a surprise attack on Camp Nam Dong. Throughout the five-hour battle, Mr. Donlon remained focused and determined, swiftly repositioning himself around the camp, directing counterfire, giving his men encouragement, and even providing care to the wounded despite his own injuries. His valiant efforts in the face of Viet Cong aggression made Mr. Donlon the first person to receive the Medal of Honor, the military’s highest decoration, in the Vietnam War.

Although Mr. Donlon’s formal service in the U.S. Army has ended, his service to our country continues today. Through his active involvement with the Medal of Honor Foundation’s Medal of Honor Character Development Program, the Westmoreland Scholar Foundation, as well as regularly talking to students and servicemen and women, Mr. Donlon is an important role model for our communities, our military, and the next generation of soldiers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Colonel Roger Donlon on his lifetime of hard work and dedicated service to the United States.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2018

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House Chamber Roll Call votes 331 through 335 on Tuesday, July 17, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted “Nay” on Roll Call votes 331 and 332, and “Yea” on Roll Call votes 333, 334, and 335.

TRIBUTE TO IOWA SELECT FARMS AND THE DEB AND JEFF HANSEN FOUNDATION

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Iowa Select Farms and the Deb and Jeff Hansen Foundation for being honored by the Army National Guard for their outstanding support of Army Guard Soldiers across the state of Iowa.

Iowa Select Farms has been honoring Iowa’s soldiers for 12 years now by distributing pork and pork products to all military families during the holidays. Lieutenant General Timothy J. Kadavy, director of the Army National Guard, noted the “positive impact” that employers such as the Deb and Jeff Hansen Foundation have on Soldiers’ lives and thanked those “who do so much for the men and women who serve in the Army National Guard.”

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Iowa Select Farms and the Deb and Jeff Hansen Foundation today. I know that my

colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in applauding their ongoing support of our military members.

HONORING CHIEF IRA LEWIS

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2018

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I am extremely proud to rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of Chief Ira Lewis (USCG, retired) of Harker’s Island, North Carolina, and recognize his turning 100 years old on August 2, 2018. On Saturday, August 18, 2018, the Town of Harker’s Island and the surrounding community will formally honor Chief Lewis as their oldest living citizen. The celebration will include a United States Coast Guard reunion, parade, and recognition ceremony.

Ira Lewis was born on Harker’s Island on August 2, 1918. At the age of 16, he had to make the difficult decision to leave school early in order to support his family. Having four brothers that served either in the Coast Guard or Navy, Ira followed suit and joined the United States Coast Guard in 1938, serving diligently until his retirement on August 1, 1959. From his enlistment through March 1957, Chief Lewis’ assignments included Stations Bellport, Ditch Plans, Forge River, Rockaway Atlantic Beach, Smith’s Point, Napeague and Moriches Lifeboat Station. From March 1957 until his retirement on August 1, 1959, Chief Lewis served as the lighthouse keeper at Montauk Lighthouse, Long Island, N.Y.

After retirement, Chief Lewis returned home to Harker’s Island, North Carolina and began to build his family home with his own hands. This home would house his wife, Maggie; son, Phil; and daughter, Ann. After completing his home, Chief Lewis went to work at the commissary aboard Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point for eleven years. Upon completing his career at the commissary, he started a commercial fishing business, where he piloted two vessels, and persevered through that often challenging career for twenty-three years.

As the commercial industry began to decline, Chief Lewis looked for a new path, and decided to give back to his community. He went on to serve with several boards and community improvement teams. Of note was the Carteret County Harbor Committee, which helped secure funding to upgrade harbors for commercial fishers. Chief Lewis also worked with a team to initiate the Veterans’ Memorial Project, which now stands on the grounds of the Harker’s Island Elementary School.

As a result of his years of service, Chief Lewis was awarded the prestigious and exclusive Order of the Long Leaf Pine in 2013 by the Governor of North Carolina. This award is presented to individuals who have a proven record of extraordinary service to the state. That same year, he was honored with a United States Coast Guard Medallion in recognition of his 95th birthday. A revered man, the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum of Harker’s Island also hosts a permanent Life Saving Service and United States Coast Guard display in honor of Chief Lewis’ many contributions during his career.

Chief Lewis has given his life to public service through his career with the United States